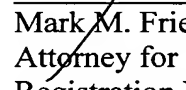


REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and remarks previously filed (on Dec. 7, 2004) it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 31, 33, 36, 51, 62, 64, 65 and 67-76, and hence dependent claims 2, 3, 5-9, 11, 13, 15-21, 23-29, 34, 35, 37-40, 52, 53, 55 and 56 are in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: January 24, 2005